

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 7, 9 through 13 and 16 through 19 were presented for examination in the present application and remain pending. Claims 9, 10, and 17 through 19 have been withdrawn from consideration, but remain pending for rejoinder upon allowance of a generic claim. Currently, claims 1 and 16 are generic.

Claim 16 has been amended to correct a grammatical error and, thus, to provide proper verb tense to the claim elements.

Claims 1 through 7, 11, 13, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 2,575,835 to Pohle (Pohle) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,374,344 to Misono et al. (Misono). Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Pohle in view of Misono in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,717,290 to Schaffer (Schaffer).

Independent claim 1 requires “said flexurally rigid connection and said first and second sections are elastically deformable to brace the getter in said first section and said second section in said inner surface”. Thus, claim 1 recites three elastically deformable members, namely the flexurally rigid connection, the first section, and the second section. This simple combination of three members are elastically deformable to brace the getter in the first section and to brace the second section in the inner surface.

Pohle discloses a centering device or spider 18. The spider 18 includes spring legs 21 and 22 cut from the spider to produce a lateral force on the side walls of tube 11. See col. 1, line 43 through col. 2, line 5. The spider also includes a large skirt portion 25 having one or more fingers 26 stamped out of the skirt. The gettering loop 19 is secured to the outer end of finger 26 in any suitable manner as for instance welding. Alternately, the gettering loop 19 may be attached directly to the skirt portion 25. See col. 2, lines 14-41.

Thus, Pohle secures the gettering loop 19 to the outer end of finger 26 or to the skirt portion 25. In contrast, claim 1 requires the getter to be braced in the first section. Further, Pohle does not disclose or suggest that the skirt portion 25 or the fingers 26 are elastically

deformable. As these components are not elastically deformable, they clearly can not use this missing property to brace the getter in the first section as required by claim 1.

Misono discloses a conductive spacer 7 that has one end secured to an electron gun structure 6 and the other end in contact with a conductive film 4. See col. 1, lines 40-43. Misono secures the conductive spacer 7 to the electron gun structure 6 and, thus, can not brace the getter in the first section using the simple combination of three members that are elastically deformable as required by claim 1.

The Office Action merely asserts that Shaffer discloses a support wire with respect to the elements of claim 12 and, thus, acknowledges that Shaffer does not disclose or suggest claim 1.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested by the proposed combination of Pohle, Misono, and Shaffer. Claim 1, as well as claims 1 through 7 and 9 through 13 that depend therefrom, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 16 requires that "said pair of first legs, said pair of second legs, and said connecting portion having a spring force sufficient to support the getter between said pair of first legs and to support said pair of second legs in said inner surface when the holding clip is inserted in the inner surface".

Thus, claim 16 recites three members, namely the pair of first legs, the pair of second legs, and the connecting portion, that have a spring force when the holding clip is inserted in the inner surface. This simple combination provides a spring force that is sufficient to support the getter between the pair of first legs and to support the pair of second legs in the inner surface when the holding clip is inserted in the inner surface.

Again, Pohle discloses a spider 18 having spring legs 21, 22 and a skirt portion 25 with fingers 26 stamped out of the skirt. The gettering loop 19 is secured to the outer end of finger 26 or attached directly to the skirt portion 25. See col. 2, lines 14-41. Thus, Pohle secures the

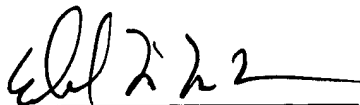
gettering loop 19 to the outer end of finger 26 or to the skirt portion 25. In contrast, claim 16 requires the getter to be supported between the pair of first legs. Further, Pohle does not disclose or suggest that the skirt portion 25 or the fingers 26 have a spring force. As these components do not have a spring force, they clearly can not use this missing property to support the getter between the pair of first legs as required by claim 16.

Further, Misono discloses a conductive spacer 7 that has one end secured to an electron gun structure 6 and the other end in contact with a conductive film 4. See col. 1, lines 40-43. Since the conductive spacer of Misono is secured to the structure 6, it also does not use a spring force to support the getter between the pair of first legs when the holding clip is inserted in the inner surface as required by claim 16.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 16 is not disclosed or suggested by the proposed combination of Pohle and Misono. Claim 16, as well as claims 17 through 19 that depend therefrom, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited. If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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